

# Youth And Political Participation In Africa; A Case Study Of Nigeria

*Ayomide Alao*

Africa has the fastest-growing and most youthful population in the world. Over 40% are under the age of 15 and 20% are between the ages of 15 and 24.

These statistics present a serious challenge. Can Africa seize the opportunities being presented, or do Africa's youth constitute a ticking, demographic time-bomb?



- Population: 180 Million
- 36 States
- Over 300 ethnic groups
- Most populous black nation in the world

Nigeria is projected to be the world's third most populous country by the year 2050, according to a report released by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. With a growth rate of 2.6%, with more than half its people under 30 years of age, the population is projected to hit circa 400 million.



Nigerian youth have been constitutionally excluded from seeking top elective positions. Nigeria's 1999 constitution stipulates that the president has to be at least 40, while senators and state governors have to be aged 35 or above.

But with an increasingly young demographic in Africa's most populous nation and a majority of voters (55.4 percent) in the 18-35 age group, the restriction is seen as unfair.

# The Birth Of #NotTooYoungToRun

- In order to correct this constitutional anomaly, the #NotTooYoungToRun Campaign was birthed.
- So many youth Organizations joined this campaign alongside other well meaning Nigerians.
- The campaign gained momentum and was later Sponsored as a bill at the national assembly by a member of the House of Representatives, Hon. Tony Nwulu

I support  
#NotTooYoungToRun

BILL



This Bill seeks to alter the Section 65, 106, 131, 177 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) to reduce the age qualification for the office of the President and Governor and membership of the Senate and House of Representatives and the State House of Assembly. The Bill also seeks to allow independent candidacy in Nigeria's electoral process.



Ayomide Alao with other members of the campaign on a peaceful walk to a state house of assembly







● Nothing will be ceded or conceded to our generation without a fight.

● Sustainable change comes through pressure and influence



# Nigerian House of Representatives Passes NOT TOO YOUNG TO RUN BILL



261 YES



23 NO



2 ABSTAIN



**PRESIDENT**

**35**  
Years

**25**  
Years

House of Representatives



**GOVERNOR**

**30**  
Years

**25**  
Years

State House of Assembly



I Support  
#NotTooYoungToRun  
BILL



# Nigerian Senate Passes NOT TOO YOUNG TO RUN BILL



86 Yes



10 No



1 Abstain

 Retweet

Details shortly



# The Deal Is Not Yet Sealed

- The #NotTooYoungToRun bill recently got the support/ascent of the two chambers of the National Assembly, the Senate and House of representatives respectively.
- For this bill to be successfully passed and become a law, there is a need for at least 24 state houses of assembly and the president to ascent to it.

# CIVIC & VOTERS EDUCATION

- Good governance and democracy requires more than competent and scrupulous leaders, an enlightened populace are also needed.
- Voters' apathy in Nigeria is something that has to be addressed. voters turn out during the last presidential poll wasn't in any way encouraging. (*check the next page for data*)
- In lieu of this, there is a need to engage in civic and voters education, especially amongst young people.

***Source: Independent National Electoral Commission***

<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS</b>	<b>67,422,005</b>
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCREDITED VOTERS</b>	<b>31,746,490</b>
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF VALID VOTES</b>	<b>28,587,564</b>
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF REJECTED VOTES</b>	<b>844,519</b>
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTE CAST</b>	<b>29,432,083</b>





Ayomide Alao during a civic & voters education orientation with over two thousand youth

“The future will be bright only to the degree at which today's youth are empowered. Government should be intentional and strategic about youth development.” - Alao Ayomide



alaoayomide



@alao\_ayomide

#Youthday



"It is indeed difficult for ordinary citizens  
to acquire real Political power and  
change the way their society works. But  
it is possible"

- *Daron & James Robinson, Why Nations Fail*



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